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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights
and International Operations

GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Energy and Resources
Ranking Minority Member

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy,
and Human Resources

DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL WHIP

CHAIR, Congressional Entertainment
Industries Caucus

Dear Veteran:

In the wake of the theft of 26.5 million veterans' personal information, my office would like to pass along information from the Veterans Administration (VA) and Consumer Data Industry Association.

VA Call Center

- If you have any questions regarding the theft and the potential compromise of your personal information, contact the VA Call Center. The toll free number is 800-FED-INFO (333-4636). The Call Center will operate from 8 am to 9 pm (EDT), Monday-Saturday, as long as it is needed.

Recommended Steps for Securing Your Identity:

- Your Social Security number can be used by ID thieves to open up fraudulent accounts in your name. Watch for signs that your personal information has been misused: for example, bills that do not arrive on time, receiving credit cards you did not apply for, being denied credit or receiving unfavorable terms like high interest rates for no apparent reason, or being contacted by debt collectors or businesses about merchandise or services you did not buy.
- You can order your free annual credit report online at www.annualcreditreport.com, by calling toll free 877-322-8228, or writing to Annual Credit Report Request Service, Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30384-5281.
- Once you receive your report, review it for suspicious activity like inquiries from companies you did not contact, accounts you did not open, and debt on accounts you cannot explain. Check that other information (address, date of birth, employer) is correct.
- Consider placing a fraud alert on your credit file. To place a fraud alert, call the toll free number of any one of the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies. That agency will inform the other two. This alert can help stop someone from opening new credit accounts in your name. An initial fraud alert stays on you credit report for 90 days. After